

Amendments to the claims:

1. (currently amended) An article support system including: a housing (1) having a housing base (20) with a cavity (3) and a rim (25) extending around said cavity (3), a suction disc (2) supported in said housing base (20) so as to delimit said cavity (3), an operating element rod (4) movably supported in said housing (1) and connected to said suction disc (2), a compression spring (7) disposed in said housing (1) behind said operating rod (4) so as to bias the operating rod (4) and, together therewith, the suction disc (2) outwardly from said base 20 and into contact with a surface on which the housing (1) is disposed operating means (9, 9a, 9b) connected to said operating element rod (4) for pulling said suction disc into said cavity (3) against the force of said compression spring (7) to create a vacuum between said suction disc (2) and a smooth surface on which said ~~device~~ housing (1) is disposed, said housing (1) including at its end opposite said base (20) an article support plate (13) with having engagement means claws (15) for selectively engaging ~~one~~ of an article provided with means permitting its engagement by said engagement means (15) and ~~an adapter plate provided at one side with means permitting engagement thereof by said engagement claws and, on the other side, with means for engaging an article,~~ and said system further including a mounting plate (21) provided at one side with means for its connection to a support surface and having at the other side a smooth surface for selectively mounting said ~~device~~ housing base (20) thereon by means of said suction disc (2), and a clamp support plate (21, 22) provided with means for engaging said rim (25) of said housing base (20) for mechanically engaging said base (20), and also with means for mounting said clamp support plate (22) to a support surface.

2. (original) A support system according to claim 1, wherein said article support plate (13) is pivotally supported on said housing (1) so as to permit adjustment of the support angle of an article supported by said support plate (13).

3. (original) A support system according to claim 1, wherein said housing base (20) is rotatably supported on said clamping support plate (22) so as to permit adjustment of angle of the support device about an axis normal to the support plate (22).

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A support system according to claim 4, wherein an operating arm is pivotally supported on said operating rod (4) and includes at opposite sides of the operating rod (4) cams (9a, 9b) which engage the housing ~~base~~ (20) so as to lift the operating rod (4) and pull the suction disc (2) into the base (20) to generate a vacuum between the suction disc (2) and a surface on which it is supported.

6. (original) A support system according to claim 4, wherein said engagement means are claws (15) projecting from said support plate (13) and said article or, respectively, said adapter plate have openings receiving said claws (15).